

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



June 26, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## Direct support unit in OEF fixes whatever comes in

Story and photos by Spc. Travis Edwards, 1st Corps Support Command Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (1st COSCOM PAO, May 30, 2003)—Troops deployed in Afghanistan use a variety of equipment from environmental control units and high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles to night vision devices and self-propelled artillery cannons. During everyday wear and tear equipment gets dirty, damaged and eventually deadlined.

This equipment has to be fixed properly and precisely. The maintenance units at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan turn to one company for support, the 372nd Direct Support Unit, Ohio National Guard. The unit operates as the 'third-shop' maintenance facility on the base and is attached to the 264th Logistical Task Force from 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



"Heat, dust, and heavy winds create a majority of the equipment failures on post. The biggest problem out here is of course the elements combined with poor preventative maintenance checks and service," said Spc. Leron Corbin, 372nd DSU, Logistical Task Force 264th, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Corbin, a father of four, works in a lamination factory when not activated as part of the Ohio National Guard.

Since the unit arrived in theatre in April over 500 job orders have been placed and 471 have been completed, said military officials.

"We get a lot of equipment that fails due to the changing temperature extremes. Everyday there are more and more pieces that come in broken," said Spc. Scotty Sloyer, 372nd DSU, LTF 264th. "Even proper PMCS won't keep the air conditioners and other equipment from breaking down. So, we make sure we have enough parts on hand to replace what breaks down."

The unit's storage room houses repair parts for thousands of pieces of military equipment.

"Once we took over the direct support mission we began to inventory, catalog, label, and organize every piece of equipment in the parts room for proper stockage. Over \$1,400,000 has been processed since the project began in April," said Spc. Ebony Miller, the parts clerk for the unit. Miller is a credit analysis associate when not serving the Ohio National Guard.

"Once an inspector identifies any problems with the equipment, they check to see if we have the parts necessary to repair it properly," said Miller.

The Maintenance Control Supervisor, Master Sgt. David Merrin, 372nd DSU, verifies all items turned into the DSU, then turns it to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Galati, 372nd DSU, who disseminates the items to specific sections for inspection.

"Every piece of equipment is given a thorough inspection to identify

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# Bremer calls on people to keep perspective on Iraq

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 25, 2003 – Ambassador Paul Bremer said Americans must keep things in perspective as they hear reports from Iraq.

Yesterday saw an attack on British soldiers in the south that killed six. In addition, there have been a number of clashes between Americans and what Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld calls “dead-enders” – Baath Party loyalists and remnants of the paramilitary Fedayeen Saddam and Iraqi Republican Guards.

Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq, said on NBC’s “Today Show” June 25 that it’s not clear who was responsible for the attacks in the south. “They certainly were forces who are disloyal to the Iraqi people, because these attacks on coalition forces, whether they’re American or British, are really attacks on the Iraqi people,” he said.

“We’re, after all, here, having liberated the Iraqi people, to try to help them get back on their feet after 30 years of dictatorship. And these kinds of attacks certainly don’t serve either our interests or the interests of the Iraqi people.”

Bremer disputed the idea that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating. “It’s important to take this all a little bit in perspective,” he said.

In the short time since coalition forces crossed into Iraq, there has been tremendous progress, he said. “We’ve fought a very successful war with very few casualties (and) almost no collateral damage,” he said.

The coalition avoided many of the dangers experts predicted, Bremer noted. There has not been the humanitarian disaster that many predicted. There were not hordes of refugees. The oil fields were captured intact and are even now pumping crude.

Coalition forces and humanitarian relief organizations are restoring basic services, he continued. And the coalition is working with Iraqi citizens to install an interim Iraqi government.

“So it’s important to keep this in perspective,” Bremer said. “Regrettable as these attacks are – and it certainly is important for us to stop them – the fact of the matter is, we’re on program here. We’re going to proceed. And we’re not going to be deterred by a few fanatics.”

Other news in Iraq concerns sorting out the details of a strike against two suspected leadership targets near the Syrian border on June 18. Between 20 and 30 people were “scooped up” in the special operations strike against a convoy and a compound, said a senior defense official speaking on background.

DoD officials said the strikes were a result of intelligence gathered from captive regime leaders. There is no report of number of Iraqis killed or wounded in the attacks.

Five Syrian border guards are in coalition custody following the

attacks – three were wounded and are receiving care at an American medical facility, officials said.

The senior defense official said the details on the incident are unclear because the area is so remote and because coalition forces involved in the incident have moved to a different operation. “Between (operations) Peninsula Strike and Desert Scorpion, there’ve been hundreds of people rolled up,” the official said. “There have been large handfuls of activities. This was one of those.”

In the United States, Navy personnel took control of Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri, a resident of Qatar, after President Bush designated him to be an enemy combatant. Al-Marri was transferred to the Naval Consolidated Brig, in Charleston, S.C., on June 23.

Al-Marri was being held in Peoria, Ill., where he was living when he was arrested. Federal law enforcement officials arrested al-Marri in December 2001. News reports said he was an al Qaeda sleeper agent who allegedly met with Osama bin Laden and worked to settle al Qaeda terrorists as they arrived in America.

According to a DoD news release, al-Marri was designated an enemy combatant “due to recent credible information provided by other detainees in the war on terrorism.”

According to the Department of Justice, enemy combatant status may be used to describe an individual who, under the laws and customs of war, has become a member of, or associated himself with, hostile enemy forces, thereby attaining the status of a belligerent.



**REBUILDING CONTRACT** — U.S. Army Maj. Paulo VanBreemen (far left) Winston Salen, N.C., 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, and Hakim Kawy (center) cultural consultant and the Sheikh of the Janabi tribe in Jarff Iraq Khathair Abbass Al-Sakhar go over the contract giving \$4,000 to help rebuild the clinic in the Jarff district of Iraq, June 18, 2003. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Terence L. Brown

## 2 U.S. soldiers killed by Iraqi ambushes

by Nadia Abou El-Magd

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A bomb exploded Thursday near a U.S. military vehicle on the road to Baghdad's airport, and assailants threw grenades at a U.S.-led convoy, killing an American soldier and two Iraqi civilians.

The military also announced that a U.S. Marine was killed Wednesday while responding to an ambush in which three other Americans were wounded.

The ambushes were the latest in a growing tide of violent anti-coalition opposition, despite assurances that troops have been mopping up resistance around Baghdad.

The U.S. military has blamed attacks around Baghdad on remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime or his Sunni followers, saying there was no organized resistance movement.

On Thursday, however, the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera reported that it received a statement and videotape from an alleged Iraqi resistance group claiming responsibility for the violence and threatening more. U.S. defense officials had no immediate comment.

The bomb explosion on the airport road Thursday killed one American soldier and injured another, the U.S. military said. The road, which is heavily used by U.S. forces, has been the scene of several ambushes using trip wires dangling from overpasses or grenades tossed from bridges.

Also Thursday, attackers threw grenades at a U.S. and Iraqi civilian convoy in west Baghdad, killing two Iraqi employees of the national electricity authority, U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police said. The convoy included U.S. Humvees at the front and the back and two Iraqi civilian vehicles in the middle. The victims were traveling in the same car.

On Wednesday, ambushers threw grenades from a Baghdad overpass onto a passing convoy of Army Humvees, said Marine Corps Maj. Sean Gibson. There were no serious injuries.

The same day, militants ambushed Marines in Hillah, 45 miles south of Baghdad, wounding three troops. Later, one Marine was killed and two were wounded when their vehicle - part of a quick-reaction force sent in response to the Hillah ambush - rolled over on the soft shoulder en route to the scene.

The names of the American and Iraqi victims were not immediately released. The latest killings raised the American death toll to 196 since the start of the war on March 20. At least 20 U.S. soldiers have died as the result of hostile fire since major combat was declared over in May.

On Tuesday, violence in the southern Iraqi town of Majar al-Kabir killed six British soldiers and wounded eight British paratroopers. The British military Thursday blamed the violence involving the paratroopers partly on a misunderstanding over weapons searches.



*Soldiers push a van damaged when attackers lobbed a grenade at a convoy in Baghdad, killing the vehicle's two Iraqi occupants. Two U.S. servicemen also died in the latest in a growing tide of anti-coalition opposition. (AP photo)*

Maj. Gen. Peter Wall said the violence probably was sparked when British paratroopers entered the town, 180 miles southeast of Baghdad, during a "routine joint patrol" with local militias.

However, Wall offered no explanation for an attack at a town police station later Tuesday, in which six Royal Military Police were killed, some reportedly shot with their own weapons. He said he could not comment on those claims while an investigation continued.

Local people told reporters that violence was triggered by anger over heavy-handed weapons searches in Majar al-Kabir in which soldiers used dogs and entered women's bedrooms in defiance of Muslim sensibilities.

The violence in the town shattered the peace that had reigned in Shiite-dominated southern Iraq since the fall of Saddam - and spurred British authorities to consider requiring troops to wear body armor and helmets.

The deaths represent the heaviest loss under fire for British troops in a single day since the 1991 Gulf War and take the British death toll during the latest Iraqi conflict to 42.

On Thursday, 11 pickup trucks filled with armed men from the local Iraqi security force patrolled the city on their own, with no British troops in the town center.

British forces in Iraq have been reduced to 15,500 from 45,000 during the war; two-thirds of them are ground forces. The United States has brought home some 130,000 troops from the region; 146,000 American forces remain in Iraq.



## **Direct support unit in OEF fixes whatever comes in continued**

the problem it may be having,” said First Sgt. Terry Mullins, first sergeant, 372nd DSU.

“Each section has personal who specialize in specific equipment. For example, air conditioning and generators have someone, where night vision devices require someone else. We have a wide variety of soldiers in the unit,” said Galati, a shipping company mechanic in the civilian world.

“There are quite a variety of military occupational specialties in our company,” said Mullins. “Everyone learns something each day from each day.”

“In this company the old Army tradition of learning the job of the person above and below you holds true. When our First Sergeant went on emergency leave Master Sgt. Merrin took over and we all moved up one position,” said Galati. “The training of leaders in the unit and cross training has helped us perform above standard in this combat zone.”

“The Ohio National Guard provided LTF 264th with the right kind of soldiers, motivated, dedicated, and professional,” said Lt. Col.

Matthew Broadbuss, commander, LTF 264th. “Mixing the high speed active-duty personnel in this battalion with the high speed Guardsmen has raised the bar of excellence in the Operational Enduring Freedom theatre.”

“The soldiers have taken their basic skills and advanced them to the next level,” said Mullins. “They go the extra mile to get it done right the first time, keeping U.S. forces at Bagram Air Base combat ready to fight the war on terror.”



*(Editor's note: Spc. Travis Edwards is the public affairs NCOIC of the Joint Logistics Command)*

## **Missing U.S. soldiers in Iraq may be abducted**

By PAULINE JELINEK

WASHINGTON (AP) - Two American soldiers appear to have been abducted in Iraq, defense officials said Thursday.

The men and their Humvee had been stationed at an observation post near the town of Balad, north of Baghdad, when they went missing Wednesday night, according to Pentagon officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A search by Apache attack helicopters was started as soon as they were noticed missing, one official said, declining to say how their absence was noticed.

“There is no site of them or their vehicle,” he said.

Another official said some Iraqi people reported seeing them “somewhere else,” meaning a distance from the observation post. He declined to say whether the Iraqis saw the men or the Humvee or

both - or whether they were in the company of Iraqis - or any other details.

The incident comes amid an increase in attacks on occupying forces in Iraq. An American soldier and two Iraqi civilians were killed in other attacks Thursday and casualties have been reported almost daily. Six British troops were killed and eight wounded in attacks in southern Iraqi town Tuesday.

The Balad region, which is about 35 miles from Baghdad, also has been a trouble area.

Two weeks ago U.S. Central Command reported that an organized group of attackers ambushed a two-tank patrol from the Army's 4th Infantry Division near there. In an ambush officials said was unusual in the number of assailants and the coordination of the attack, the assailants hid in a thicket of reeds, detonated a land mine, then launched rocket-propelled grenades at the tanks.

The resulting ground and air assault killed 27 Iraqi fighters.

# U.S., EU to cooperate on terror, counterproliferation

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 26, 2003 – U.S. and European Union leaders signed agreements designed to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to increase cooperation in the global war on terror.

President Bush, speaking at a White House ceremony June 25, praised the agreements, saying the United States and the European Union will not only “make the world not only safer, but also better.”

President Bush signed the agreement with Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who holds the revolving presidency of the EU, and EU President Romano Prodi.

A total of 15 countries make up the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Bush said the agreement gives the United States and the EU new tools to stop the gravest threat

to world security: the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. “We have agreed to work together and with others to strengthen export controls on dangerous materials,” Bush said during a White House press conference following the meeting. “We also seek new methods, including active interdiction, to stop illicit trade in weapons of mass destruction.”

Bush noted the United States and the European Union agree on the need to contain the proliferation ambitions of North Korea and Iran. “America and the EU agree that Iran must cooperate fully with the (International Atomic Energy Agency),” he said. “We agree that Iran must sign and comply with an additional protocol giving the IAEA new tools to investigate clandestine nuclear weapons activities. Iran has pledged not to develop nuclear weapons, and the entire international community must hold that regime to its commitments.”

Prodi agreed and said the EU maintains a daily and deep dialogue with Iran. “We push that they accept all the inspections,” he said. “We have to be absolutely sure.”

Bush pointed out the anti-terrorism agreement will allow the United States and the European Union to more closely cooperate. “Under these agreements, we will form joint investigative teams and share information on suspect bank accounts, and expand the range of offenses that qualify for extradition,” he said.

Bush, Simitis and Prodi stressed the need for the United States and the European Union to work together for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. “We’ll work together to achieve the two-state



*President Bush, left, and European Commission President Romano Prodi, right, participate in a joint press conference, Wednesday, June 25, 2003, in the East Room of the White House after Bush’s meeting with a European Union delegation. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)*

solution endorsed by the parties earlier this month at the Red Sea Summit,” Bush said. “Progress toward this goal will only be possible if all sides do all in their power to defeat the determined enemies of peace, such as Hamas and other terrorist groups.”

The president said every time there is a step toward a settlement, it is followed by “more murders in the guise of martyrdom, as those who oppose peace do all they can to destroy the hopes and aspirations of those who desire to live in peace.”

Bush urged world leaders to take swift, decisive action against terror groups such as Hamas. He wants other nations to emulate the United States and stop all funding and support to the Palestinian faction that has been responsible for so many deaths in Israel.

Prime Minister Simitis and President Prodi spoke about what effect the split between some of the European countries and United States over Iraq has meant. “The United States and the European Union cannot possibly have and share on foreign policy or trade interests in all areas the same opinions,” Simitis said.

“There will be issues and times where we will differ,” he continued. “But friendship presupposes that we will have to agree to differ, to accept to differ. And friendship presupposes that we must be disciplined and manage our differences. We should always act on the basis that what unites us will always outweigh any issue that divides us.”

# CJCS says volunteer military going strong after 30 years

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 25, 2003 – Today's all-volunteer force is strong, vibrant and has successfully met myriad challenges in the global war on terrorism, the U.S. military's top officer said here June 25.

This is largely so, because "for the most part, everybody who is serving is someone who wants to serve," asserted Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Under the conscription, or draft, military, which was replaced by the all-volunteer system July 1, 1973, draftees were required to spend two years in the active military.

Adoption of the all-volunteer military concept resulted in having people stay in uniform longer, Myers pointed out, and in turn enabled the military to focus on improving the training and quality of life for service members.

"If you think people are going to be with you longer, ... then certain things accrue on how you take care of your people ... It's forced us to focus better on that," the JCS chief remarked.

Although military members have seen several pay raises and improved housing in recent years, Myers pointed out that quality-of-life issues remain a work in progress.

"If we're going to have an all-volunteer force," Myers said, then "we're going to have to take care of (service members) and their families."

Comparisons of the people in the draft-era and all-volunteer militaries are difficult, the general pointed out, noting that both systems featured patriots.

"Individually, I don't know if you can ascribe differences" between the conscripted and all-volunteer systems," Myers said.

Since today's service members stay in the military longer, they're receiving better training and education than draftees, which, overall, provides "a stronger force," Myers pointed out.

Yet, even a strong force may experience fatigue because of numerous, sometimes back-to-back deployments, he acknowledged.

"Probably the biggest thing we can do" to improve quality of life for service members, Myers said, "is to provide some predictability in the lives of our folks," including Guard and reserve members.

For example, during the 1990s and during the war against terrorism "some units have been called up over and over," Myers observed, while others "haven't been called at all."

Consequently, he noted, DoD officials are currently studying methods, such as adjusting force mix, to solve overdeployment issues.

The all-volunteer force has been highly successful fighting and defeating America's enemies during the global war against terrorism, Myers noted, pointing to the performance of the noncommissioned officer corps, a group of leaders who "get the job done."

"It's a structure of mid-level management, if you will, that is key to our success" in the anti-terror war, the four-star general asserted.

The recruiting force is another essential element of the all-volunteer military, Myers observed.

"People have to be made aware of the opportunities" that are available by joining the armed forces, Myers remarked, noting that both recruiting and retention have been good since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

Military life "is a dangerous job," Myers pointed out, especially during these turbulent times. Yet, he observed that young people continue to volunteer for military service, recognizing the good pay and benefits.

And most volunteers "have a sense of duty to their country — and patriotism," Myers said, and are responding to protect the nation against its greatest threat since World War II and the Revolutionary War.

The all-volunteer force is undeniably a success, since America's military is the best in the world, Myers declared.

"We just saw our military in action in Iraq," he explained. "We saw fierce warriors and, at the same time, very compassionate warriors, who kept civilian casualties ... at a minimum.

"It's hard to imagine another system that would produce that kind of soldier, airman, Marine, sailor, Coastguardsman than the one we have," Myers declared.

The 30th anniversary of the Volunteer Force will be celebrated July 1 at the White House during a special re-enlistment ceremony hosted by President Bush, Myers noted.

In addition to the White House event, special enlistment ceremonies will be held that day at military entrance processing stations across the country, according to a DoD message.



[www.defenselink.mil/  
index.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/index.html)



by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample,  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 25, 2003 — Mass smallpox vaccinations can be conducted safely with “very low” rates of serious adverse effects, the Defense Department’s senior medical official said today.

And the military will continue with its vaccination program because the smallpox bioterror threat remains, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, during a press briefing at the National Press Club.

“Although we are no longer vaccinating service members at the rate we witnessed earlier in the program, we continue to vaccinate those

## Smallpox vaccine has “no serious side effects,” military study concludes

personnel in a national program of preparedness against the use of smallpox as a biological weapon.

Army Col. John D. Grabenstein, deputy director for clinical operations at the Military Vaccine Agency, said the study proved that the vaccine was administered without many adverse reactions, such as skin irritation and blister rashes, or risks associated with

the vaccine.

Grabenstein, who along with Winkenwerder co-authored a report on the vaccination study, said that adverse incidents were not as apparent as historical data would suggest.

“Itching at the vaccination site was reported by about 60 percent of those vaccinated,” Grabenstein said. In addition, he said that cases of “blister rashes were mild and that they were treated on an outpatient basis.

He also noted that only 3 percent needed to take sick leave after being vaccinated. That leave lasted roughly a day and a half, he said.

Winkenwerder said key elements of keeping risks to a minimum during the vaccination program include comprehensive training of medical staff; education and careful screening of service members to be vaccinated; close monitoring following vaccination; and early intervention when adverse events occur.

He noted one very important finding in the study: no cases of transmission of vaccine virus from the health care worker to the patient.

But there were some concerns about the study. Winkenwerder said acute myopericarditis — inflammation of the membrane covering the heart — occurred in a small number of service members who received the vaccine: about 1 in 12,000, or 37, people.

“All of these individuals have recovered or they are recovering and we will continue to follow them,” he said.

Grabenstein also refuted media accounts of the vaccine causing heart attacks in military personnel.

“We have had several heart attacks among smallpox vaccines, but no more than we have had among a similar amount of unvaccinated people,” he said. “So our conclusion is that heart attacks and small pox vaccination are unrelated,” he said.

Winkenwerder said that information learned from the study will provide the American medical community and public with “current, factual information that will be useful as the U.S. moves forward with its vaccination program.”

The study’s results were reported on the Journal of the American Medical Association’s Web site at [www.jama.ama-assn.org](http://www.jama.ama-assn.org).



*A soldier is immunized against smallpox at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Jan. 14, 2003. The medic is using a bifurcated, or forked, needle to administer the vaccine. Defense Department photo by Michael Dukes*

who are serving or who soon will be serving in high-risk areas,” he noted.

“Our experience demonstrates that on a large scale the smallpox vaccination program can be conducted safely,” Winkenwerder said.

DoD’s top doctor pointed out that there are risks associated with the smallpox vaccination, even though significant side effects are rare and death, very rare. But, he added, “Our

experience is that it is possible to reduce those risks associated with the vaccine.”

According to information from the five and a half-month military study, DoD administered 450,293 smallpox vaccinations, including more than 50,000 per week at the peak of the military vaccination program.

The study began Dec. 13, 2002, the day after President Bush announced the plan to vaccinate the military, and ended May 28, 2003.

During that period, the military began vaccinating selected military

## 797th EOD Company prepares for Afghan mission

by Pfc. Christina Carde / 11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — As the threat level on Bagram continues to decrease due to force protection measures, encountering unexploded ordnance or stepping on land mines are perhaps the furthest things from troops' minds. However, for some soldiers, thinking about UXOs is what they get paid to do.

Even though the 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Fort Polk, La., destroyed hundreds of thousands of UXOs during their eight-month deployment here, their predecessors said there is still a lot of work to be done.

"We've been here for about 10 days and can already tell there's a lot of work to do, both on Bagram and in other areas around Afghanistan," said 1st Sgt. Gilbert Rodriguez, first sergeant, 797th Ordnance Co. (EOD), Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "As you look around the air base, you can see a lot of fields with fences still around them that haven't been cleared yet, and we may still have to do further digging in areas that have already been cleared."

With the 705th barely back in the States, the 797th has already begun their mission of making Afghanistan a safer place.

"We are ... a 15-man unit ... broken up into five teams responsible for going out to different (forward operating bases), being ready to go out with the (Quick Reaction Force) and maintain 24-hour operations for base security," said Rodriguez. "We have also been out on several demolitions around the perimeter in the past week."

Although the 797th was deployed to Kosovo in 1999, Rodriguez said the mission here is much different.

"There is a higher state of emergency out here that in places like Kosovo or Bosnia," said Rodriguez. "The level of awareness over there was still high, but nothing like a combat zone."

According to Rodriguez, Afghanistan's summer months will have an effect on their mission.

Our missions are going to be more frequent now that summer is here because more people are out and about and will be calling in more possible UXOs," said Rodriguez. "Also with the 120 days of wind around the corner, keeping our equipment functional will be as much of a challenge as our daily operations."



*In an effort to keep troops informed about the different types of unexploded ordnance in theatre, boards containing examples of UXOs are in the gym, dining facilities and other places where troops frequent. Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde*

Regardless of the challenges the mission may bring, the 797th is ready for the task.

"We have been training and familiarizing ourselves with the different UXOs out here so we can be fully prepared for the mission," said Rodriguez. "Our guys are very skilled and professional in their jobs and they are ready to accomplish the mission."

If the 797th accomplishes one goal during their deployment, they don't want it to be the number of UXOs destroyed, but the number of people that go home in one piece.

"Our main goal is to get all of our guys out of here successfully and unharmed," said Rodriguez. "Our secondary goal is to make sure the U.S. and coalition forces are safe. We would rather receive 100 calls that turn out to be nothing, than not receive the one call that costs someone their life."

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# Soldiers grade weapons and equipment they are using in Iraq

by Amy Svitak and Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writers

Many U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq are newly battle tested, but so too are many of the weapons and much of the equipment they took to the fight.

A team of evaluators from Program Executive Office Soldier, the Army unit that oversees everything soldiers wear or carry into combat, visited the troops in the combat zone to gauge the performance of their gear. They spoke with dozens of soldiers from May 5-10 and recorded their findings in a draft document obtained by Army Times.

The soldiers whose opinions are included in "Operation Iraqi Freedom: PEO Soldier Lessons Learned" were in Iraq with elements of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 82nd Airborne Division and 3rd Infantry Division.

Where appropriate, some of the key findings will be used to guide weapons, uniform and equipment modifications and replacements. They include:

- 9mm pistol: Soldiers generally disliked it, saying it lacked significant stopping power. The 9mm's magazines also performed poorly, with soldiers stretching the spring to get sufficient force to feed rounds into the chamber.
  - XM107 .50-caliber sniper rifle. Maybe the most useful weapon for urban combat, soldiers said. Soldiers liked the range, accuracy and stopping power. Some, however, thought the Leopold Sight was not ballistically matched to the weapon.
  - M4 assault rifle. Soldiers said it performed well in the demanding environment, but the weapon's range was inadequate for targets in excess of 500 meters, even with the flip-up sight.
  - Interceptor Body Armor: The troops in Iraq expressed confidence in it when "trolling for contact" with the enemy, but said it interfered with a prone firing position.
  - ICOM radio. With poor range ability, it was evaluated as the worst example of squad communications, which were poor overall.
- "Everyone had a Motorola-type hand-held radio that had vastly better range and power performance," the document stated.
- Desert combat boots. They were a problem in Afghanistan and they're a problem for soldiers in Iraq. Soldiers said the soles were too soft and too easily damaged by the terrain. PEO Soldier has been experimenting with alternatives to this boot.
  - MOLLE rucksack system. The Modular Lightweight Load-bearing Equipment was well-received as an improvement over its predecessors, though soldiers offered several areas that need attention. They disliked the snaps and would prefer Velcro in combination with fast tech-type connectors, for example.

- Assault ruck. Soldiers had many favorable things to say about this item, although some found it too small and not durable.



- Individual gear. Soldiers, as they have done for decades, spend their own money to purchase the quality packs, pouches, belts, underwear, socks and gloves they believe they need for mission success, according to the

document. Soldiers are buying their own Coolmax-type T-shirts because of their wicking properties. Under Armour is another popular brand. Socks were an item that generated "a good deal of discussion," according to the document. Many received black wool/poly pro blend that were too hot for comfort in the Iraqi desert. Some received the tan and white Wright sock, which shrank too much after washing. Soldiers in the 3rd Infantry Division received the dark green sock, and they continued to judge it as superior.

"Soldiers felt if they could just keep their socks clean, they could better protect their feet," the document stated.

The Camelbak-style hydration system was deemed the way to go in the parched desert of Iraq. Soldiers stopped using their one-quart canteens once the threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction subsided. However, the Camelbak variant distributed to the 82nd Airborne Division was not rugged enough. Troops said bladders ruptured easily and they had no way to replace them.

PEO Soldier's Rapid Fielding Initiative has been addressing many of these individual-gear needs.

## Sweden mulls military compulsory military service for women

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Women in Sweden, one of the world's most progressive countries when it comes to equal rights, might end up doing compulsory military service like their countrymen, depending on the findings of a new study.

Defense Minister Leni Bjorklund, herself the first woman in the post, said Thursday she had commissioned the armed forces to write a report on whether women should also be pressed into military service, known in Swedish as "lumpen."

"In an equal society I see no obstacles to a sex-neutral military service," Bjorklund told journalists. "With modern technology there are tasks for which women are well suited."

Military service is supposed to be compulsory for all Swedish men, but due to tight military budgets only a third actually spend time in uniform. For women, it is voluntary and in 2002 around 2.5 percent of all conscripts were women.

The report is due in March next year.

# Army, MIT developing body armor using spider silk

by Lisa Burgess, Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — How do you milk a spider?

“Very, very carefully,” according to Gareth McKinley, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one of the leaders of a team of MIT scientists working with the Army’s Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology.

Together, MIT and the Army are working on a program to develop a new “Soldier Suit” — a high-tech uniform that can perform a host of functions, such as adapting to different temperatures and even delivering limited medical care to sick or wounded soldiers.

The research under way at MIT is what government types call “blue skies,” meaning technologies that are at least 15 to 20 years away from becoming reality.

“These aren’t things that are rolling out next week,” McKinley said in a telephone interview from his MIT labs in Boston, Mass.

But some of the MIT approaches are further along than others, which is where the spiders come in: McKinley’s team is looking at ways to use spider silk to make the Soldier Suit’s integrated body armor much lighter and more flexible.

The fragile, delicate stuff that makes up cobwebs helping to stop bullets?

## Officer Record Briefs now online

by Shannon Brown

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Jun. 25, 2003) — Officers have a new capability to check their personnel information online.

MyORB is a Web-based solution that enables active-duty officers to access, view and download their information within seconds using their Army Knowledge Online username and password.

In the past, officers had to visit their local personnel service unit to get a copy of their Officer Record Brief. Active-duty officers can access their ORB via the Internet. If corrections or updates are required, officers can then contact their local Personnel Servicing Battalion for assistance.

An ORB contains information considered by promotion boards and assignment officers such as assignment history, education, awards and decorations, special skills or qualifications and previous promotions. It is produced from data stored in the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command database.

Officers should “aggressively” update their ORB early in the promotion selection process and once every year as a minimum, according to the Officer Record Briefs and Officer Promotion section of the PERSCOM Homepage.

*(Editor’s note: Shannon Brown is the chief of the PERSCOM Information Management Branch.)*

The idea isn’t nearly as far-fetched as it sounds.

“Silk is a very fine, very tough fiber,” McKinley said, something warriors throughout the ages have taken advantage of, particularly in Asia.

“Japanese and Chinese warriors used vests made of silk 1,000 years ago as protective garments,” McKinley said.

Those old vests were made not from spider silk, however, but the silk most people are familiar with, which is spun by mulberry worms, McKinley said.

Researchers have found that spider silk is even stronger than normal silk. In fact, in terms of the amount of energy the spider fibers can absorb before they break — a crucial measurement in the world of ballistics, or the science of making something “bullet proof” — “spider silk is 100 times better than steel, and 10 times better than Kevlar,” McKinley said.

So if spider silk’s properties are so well known, what’s keeping it out of today’s body armor?

Interestingly, it isn’t because there is a problem producing enough of the stuff, which is where the “how do you milk a spider” question comes in.

Not that people haven’t made the attempt, including the famous French general Napoleon Bonaparte, “who tried farming spiders during the French Revolution” in order to produce a new kind of silk, McKinley said.

Unfortunately, the critters are rather cranky and uncooperative, making them poor candidates for mass production.

“Spiders are incredibly carnivorous and territorial, neither qualities which are good farming characteristics,” McKinley said. “Napoleon failed.”

Fortunately, spider silk “isn’t anything mysterious; it’s actually just another protein,” called ‘spidroin,’ McKinley said.

That protein means the simple answer to “how do you milk a spider?” is: You don’t.

You milk goats.

Special goats, that is, who produce spider protein thanks to a cutting-edge “genetic recombinant” process developed by a commercial company in Canada called Nexia Biotechnologies Inc.

Nexia has a proprietary process to take the silk-protein producing gene out of spiders and insert it into goats, who excrete the protein in their milk.

From there, Nexia scientists simply separate the spidroin from other

**continued on page 11**

## Army, MIT developing body armor using spider silk continued

components in the milk, ultimately producing a powder that they market to researchers around the world.

And that's where the snag comes in: reconstituting the powder and spinning it into a fiber that is strong enough to be useful.

Army researchers at the Massachusetts-based U.S. Soldier Systems Center, better known as Natick Labs, have tried to work with the spider silk powder, "but they had great difficulty trying to spin the material," McKinley said. "They got fibers that looked like glass fibers: very brittle."

Researchers have now determined that something unknown happens in the spider's abdomen that allows the creature to extrude the flexible, strong silk fibers it needs for its webs.

So, in order to make the silk effective for body armor, "the trick is to mimic the conditions under which the spider" spins its web, McKinley said.

He and his MIT team are working with a breed called the Golden Orb-Weaving Spider to try and figure out just what those conditions might be.

The Golden Orb was chosen "because it's fairly big, so you can get a lot of silk protein out of it," McKinley said — about 10 micro liters per spider, or a drop the size of a baby's tear.

The work involves squishing a lot of spiders, McKinley said. "We haven't figured out a way to actually milk them."

The researchers know they have a long way to go. "We need a much better understanding of fluid dynamics," among other challenges, McKinley said.

But "this is an engineering problem, and it can be solved."

However, the silk isn't going to be a "silver bullet" that will solve all the Army's weight problems with body armor, McKinley cautioned.

"Have you ever run into a spider web? Remember how far it can stretch?" McKinley said. "At the moment, it's way too elastic" to completely replace more conventional bulletproof materials, he said.

Instead, the Army is working toward developing a composite mix of the silk and Kevlar for its Soldier Suit, McKinley said.

"Kevlar is great, and it probably can't be beaten," he said.



*President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, assisted by Defence Secretary Angelo Reyes, left, examines a locally made RPG (rocket propelled grenade) launcher as Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya shows a rocket Thursday, June 26, 2003 at Camp Aguinaldo in suburban Manila. The military seized a 450-kilograms (1,000 pound) cache of C-4 explosives and other munitions during a raid on an alleged MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) bomb-making facility in Kabuntalan in southern Philippines. (AP Photo/Pat Roque)*



*U.S. Army soldiers launch a raid for suspected insurgents in Khaldiya, Iraq some 37 miles, 60 kilometers west of Baghdad Thursday, June 26, 2003. Troops from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment detained several men wanted for attacking army patrols with rocket propelled grenades, mostly during night patrols in the area. (AP Photo/John Moore)*



# U.S. pickup teams take on Iraqis for soccer, basketball

by Kent Harris, Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The score didn't matter.

And that was a good thing, because the soccer game Tuesday between American troops assembled from the divisions around Baghdad and a second-tier local Iraqi club was a little lopsided.

OK, more than a little lopsided. The final score was 11-0, and it was the American team that didn't find the net.

But again, the score didn't matter. What did matter was that the Iraqis were playing soccer again in al-Sha'ab stadium, which was turned back to them by American troops who had been using it since entering the Iraqi capital.

"Basically, you had support units using the Olympic facilities," said Lt. Col. Antonio Coleman, commander of the 510th Forward Support Battalion from Friedberg, Germany.

Coleman said the facilities have been used for a variety of purposes, including the billeting of some personnel. His unit was supposed to be the next to move into the facility, "but we found a home elsewhere."

That allowed a series of facilities to be given back to the Iraqis.

On Monday, it was the Olympic pool. On Tuesday, the two soccer teams squared off in the stadium. On Wednesday, teams from the two countries played basketball. On Thursday, the tennis courts are to be turned over.

But it was all about soccer Tuesday. Soccer is as big in Iraq as it is in most of Europe. The soldiers' opponent Tuesday was the al-Zawra'a club, one of the best-known in Iraq. The players were not from the top-level team, but rather from the second-level, made up of junior players.

Facing the Iraqis was an American team that had just about every disadvantage one can have in sports. The team had a only few practices and several team members didn't join the team until the day of the game. Only four members of the squad had played for college teams, none Division I colleges.

Then, there was the heat: The Iraqi summer is enough to make most Americans cringe even while sitting in the shade.

Faced with a lack of uniforms, the soldiers turned to the local economy to buy shirts, socks and shoes. The shirts and socks were yellow and were paired with the black physical training shorts that each soldier has, resembling the Army colors.

As for the players, coach Sam Perrotta, the top enlisted soldier in the 510th, had 56 volunteers to choose from — mainly from the 1st Armored Division and 82nd Airborne Division. He pared the team down to 20 earlier Tuesday.

One of those making the team was Sgt. 1st Class Scott Fisher, an Army reservist with the 361st Psyops Company from Washington

state.

"Any time I get a chance to play soccer, it's great," said Fisher, who still had a smile on his face after the game. "I think this is a tremendous opportunity for the coalition and the Iraqis to get to know each other better, spread a little goodwill and play a game of soccer."

Fisher was plenty busy for half the game, taking over goalkeeping duties with the United States trailing 4-0 at halftime. By that time, most of the crowd — U.S. soldiers from a handful of disparate units — had laughingly turned against the Americans. For security reasons, there were only a handful of Iraqis in a stadium that would fit tens of thousands for big games.

But several soldiers started cheering for the locals when they realized who the winners were likely to be.

Pfc. Jennifer Hunt, Spc. Karena Hall and Sgt. Timika Butchee weren't among them, though.

"We're still going to support them," they all said in unison when asked before the game what they'd do if the Americans started losing. Of course, all three are members of the 510th and their sergeant major was coaching the team.

"This is just for morale and fun," Hall said.

But it had a little history thrown in, as well.

"These guys are going to be able to talk about this for as long as God lets them live on this Earth," Perrotta said of his team.



*An Uzbek soldier heads the ball towards the goal during a soccer game between U.S. forces deployed to Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan and Uzbek military stationed at Karshi-Kanabad.*

*Korea — 50 years ago this week, June 26-July 2*

## ROK assaults fail to retake Outposts Queen, Bak

by Jim Caldwell,

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 25, 2003) -After Chinese artillery stopped several attempts by South Korean forces to recapture hills near Sniper Ridge, I Corps determined the outposts were not worth the casualties and called off its assaults 50 years ago this week in Korea.

June 26-July 2, 1953 — ROK troops on the east flank of I Corps are still suffering a beating by the Chinese. But they're trying to retake ground they've lost to the communists. The 15th Regiment of the ROK 1st Infantry Division had been driven off two outposts and a hilltop position, and on the morning of June 26, the regiment is in no condition to counterattack the enemy.

The 12th IR reinforces the 15th that morning and launches a two-battalion counterattack against Outpost Bok, which is unsuccessful. They repeat the attack on June 27 against Hill 179 on June 27 with the same disastrous results.

To the east, the lull in fighting provided enough time to put the ROK 5th Infantry Division back together after the beating it took in the previous enemy assaults. It's judged fit for duty by X Corps leaders on June 26. It goes back on the line and returns to ROK II Corps control.

The ROK 7th ID replaces the 20th ID on the 5th ID's right flank.

That night heavy artillery and mortar fire on both divisions precedes an assault by enemy regiments, one against part of the 5th ID and the other against the 7th ID.

The 5th is forced to give ground, so the 7th has to move its left back to keep the line intact. Then the Chinese force 7th ID soldiers off Hill 938, which guards the approach to Hill 1220 to the southeast.

For the rest of the week, the ROK 7th ID will send several assaults to retake the hill. Although the Chinese hold a small area at the top, their artillery lays down such heavy, deadly artillery and mortar fire on the attackers that the South Koreans are unable to penetrate it.

The Chinese break through the ROK 1st ID positions on Outpost Queen in I Corps on June 28. The next day the South Koreans try to retake Outposts Queen and Bak and Hill 179, and only suffer heavy casualties for their efforts.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Clarke, I Corps commander, orders the attacks broken off the same day. He does not think it's worthwhile to fight for territory that makes it difficult to reinforce outposts under the best circumstances. To have to reinforce through curtains of enemy artillery makes it almost fatal. Clarke reportedly feels the outposts aren't important enough to spend so many lives to hold them and then try to take them back.

Fighting ends temporarily in I Corps on June 29.

A Fifth Air Force spokesman reports June 30 that U.S. Air Force F-86 Sabrejet pilots shot down 15 MiG-15s in dogfights over Korea today, the most in any single day in the war. June is also a record-setting month for MiG kills — at least 74 confirmed.

Lt. Gen. S.E. Anderson, Fifth Air Force commander, says that only one F-86 was shot down in dogfights the past 75 days.

On July 1, a Fifth Air Force spokesman reveals that 30 planes of all types were lost to enemy groundfire and other reasons during June.

June 26-July 2 — Assistant Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson meets almost daily with South Korean President Syngman Rhee. Robinson's job is to reassure Rhee of the United States' commitment to and friendship with the Republic of Korea.

He reports later that there was great fear within the ROK government that the United Nations will tire of the war and leave the South alone against the Chinese and North Koreans. He said that there may have been bitterness in the United States over Rhee unilaterally releasing the prisoners, but there is equal bitterness in South Korea that is "distilled by their tears."

On June 27 Rhee says that President Dwight Eisenhower has met all of the demands that he has laid down. However, he says he wants the conditions in writing because verbal promises can easily be forgotten. Then he adds more to the list.

The meeting will last longer than a week.

June 29 — Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, sends a letter to Kim Il Sung, North Korean premier, and Gen. Peng Teh Huai, Chinese commander in Korea, suggesting that truce talks resume at Panmunjom. Clark has permission from Eisenhower to threaten to withdraw U.N. forces from South Korea if it appears that Rhee intends to interfere further in the truce talks. However, he cannot actually go through with the withdrawal.

The Army announces June 29 that on June 24 it gave an "undesirable" discharge to Cpl. Paul Schnur Jr., 21, San Francisco, one of the American prisoners released by the communists under Operation Little Switch in April. An Army spokesman said regulations allow the Army to discharge soldiers who are "disloyal or subversive" instead of trying an individual by court martial.

Schnur says he does not know what he did to deserve such a discharge.

However, his father, active in the Progressive Party and former CIO official, headed a committee that tried to prevent the execution of convicted atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg June 19.

*(Editor's note: Jim Caldwell is a senior correspondent for the TRADOC News Service.)*





*Soldiers of 1st platoon, 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, A Company, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault), move from house to looking for weapons in Mosul, Iraq, June 18, 2003, during Operation Giuliani. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kieran Moore*



*Israeli forces use a robot at the Kfar Kasem site, northeast of Tel Aviv, where they detonated a bag of confiscated explosives. (AP photo)*



*Pfc. Terry Hann from Missouri of the 1st Armored Division guards a group of Iraqis who want to become police officers at the entrance of a U.S. base in Baghdad, Wednesday, June 25, 2003. Over 200 people showed up to start the application procedure, but only 22 were selected. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)*



*A Palestinian woman walks past an old mural showing the faces of Palestinian men killed during the first Intifada Thursday, June 26, 2003, in Gaza City. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Thursday that a formal cease-fire announcement was imminent after Palestinian negotiators secured a commitment from Islamic militants to halt attacks on Israelis for three months. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)*

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